

FIND YOUR PLACE AT O'DOWD



VIEWBOOK
2026-2027



**Bishop O'Dowd
High School**



WELCOME TO O'DOWD!

Nurturing the Whole Student

Our holistic academic program, celebrated co-curricular opportunities, and diverse values-driven community empowers students — mind, body and spirit — to reach their full potential and serve the common good.

Our charism — spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit — guides us to find God in all things. We rise to academic excellence. We honor strength of character. We cherish the earth and all living things. We embrace our diverse community. We stand for social justice. We seek and hold onto joy.

We welcome you to find your place at O'Dowd.

YOU
BELONG
HERE

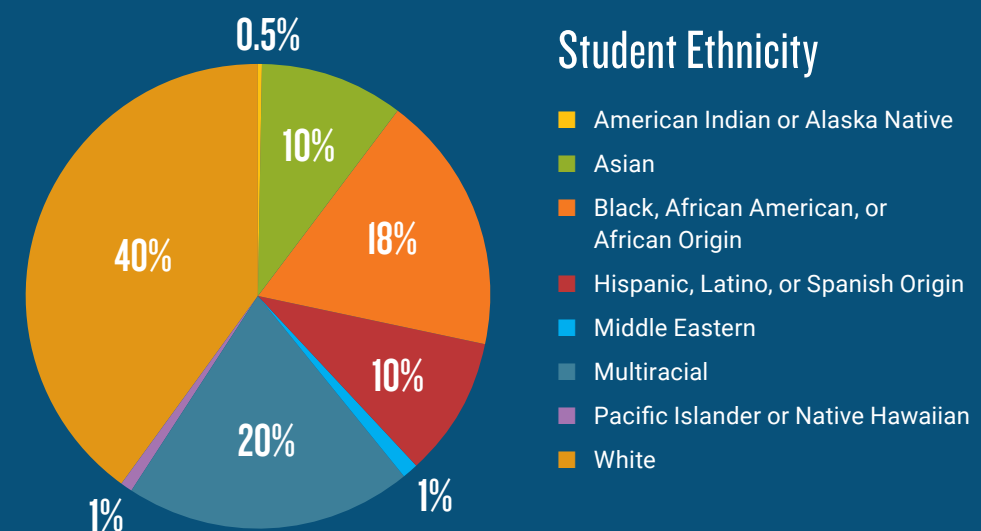
AT A GLANCE

96%
OF GRADUATES ACCEPTED
AT 4-YEAR COLLEGES

50+  Athletic Teams


Robust Student Services

20+  Acre Pristine Campus
with Beautiful Outdoor Classroom Spaces




10%
OF STUDENTS
ATTEND
TOP 20
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITIES


87%
Student
Admittance
Rate to the
University of
California

 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
Center for
Environmental
Studies and
4-Acre Living Lab


ORGANIC FARM-TO-TABLE
BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND
DINNER AVAILABLE


State-of-the-Art
Athletics and

Performing Arts
Facilities

26
Average
Class Size

37
Advanced Placement
and Honors Courses

60%
Students of Color

45+
Student Clubs

1280
Student Body

CREATE YOUR PATH

Unique Courses and Immersive Learning Opportunities

From Marine Biology to Robotics, Chemistry of Cooking to Digital Art and Design, Human Geography to Hip Hop and Society, our teachers guide students to think critically and grow intellectually and emotionally.

See our full course catalog at bishopodowd.org/course-catalog.

COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING: Guiding Students to the Right College

Our counselors build strong personal relationships with each incoming 9th grader and guide them all the way through graduation, supporting students to navigate their social, emotional, and academic journey, as well as their dreams and goals for the future.



50%

Faculty/Staff
of Color

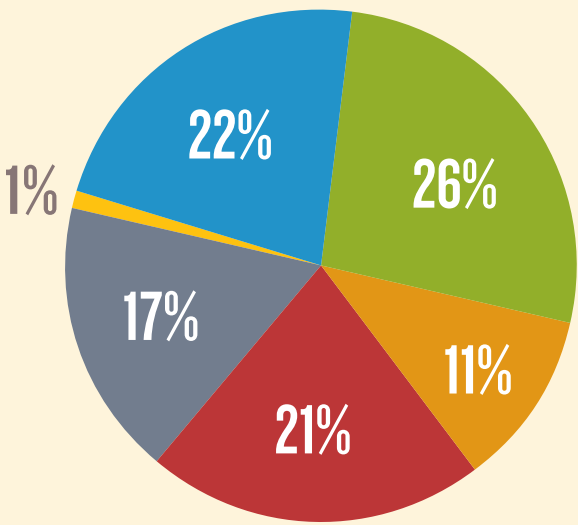
70%

of Faculty Hold
Advanced Degrees

3

World Languages
(Chinese, French, Spanish)

College Acceptances - Last 5 Years



- University of California
- California State Universities
- California Private Universities
- Out-of-State Private Universities
- Out-of-State Public Universities
- International Universities

For a full list, see:
bishopodowd.org/collegeacceptances



13%

of students in the class of 2027
plan to be the first in their family to
earn a 4-year college degree



55

Peer Tutors

Layered Academic & Emotional Support

Students have access to a number of academic supports, from teacher-led study groups and peer tutoring, to coaching on goal setting, organizational skills, time management and more, all with the goal of making sure our Dragons succeed.

Additionally, we offer comprehensive social-emotional supports – empowering students to navigate the complexities of being a teenager, make healthy choices for themselves, and act in alignment with their values.



CREATE YOUR PATH

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Our Mathematics, Computer Science, and Science programs equip students to respond to real-world challenges — from climate change to public health. Students gain the hard skills and explore the ethical complexities that prepare them for STEM careers that positively transform our world.

6+

STEM Clubs
Including Mathletes
and Robotics



State-of-the-Art
Center for
Environmental
Studies

14

AP and Honors
Courses
Including Calculus BC,
AP Environmental
Science, AP Physics C

5+

Science
Research Trips
Including Galapagos,
Costa Rica, Belize,
Yosemite and Montana

English & Social Studies

Our students learn from history's greatest thinkers and actively explore the cultural, political and economic institutions that shape our world. Whether our students grow to pursue journalism, law, medicine, policy, social work or other public leadership, they develop strong critical thinking skills and an ethical compass to make a difference in our communities.

9 AP and Honors Courses

Including AP African American
Studies, AP English Literature,
and AP Psychology.

Debate Team

Our debate team has 14 title wins,
including Yale, Stanford, and
state tournaments.

Mock Trial

Consistently top-ranked, O'Dowd's
Mock Trial Team regularly travels
to national tournaments.



CREATE YOUR PATH

World Languages

Our multifaceted approach to World Languages empowers students to explore the food, music, dance, literature, history, geography, politics, and social systems of Spanish, French and Chinese-speaking countries. Through this rich journey into different parts of the world, students expand their horizons — with a number of students going on to study abroad programs in college.

6+ Immersion Trips

Including Madrid, Barcelona, Paris, Quebec, and China

6+ AP and Honors Courses

Religious Studies & Service Learning

We create opportunities for students to ask: “What kind of person do I want to be? What am I created to do?” Through the lens of scripture and Catholic tradition, students investigate social issues, examine ethics and morality, and probe spirituality and justice, with the aim of helping to build a world that recognizes, protects, and defends the dignity of every person.

Service learning at O’Dowd takes place over all four years, integrating the classroom with community-based service and reflection.



100 Hours

Every O’Dowd student gives 100+ hours of community service.



3+ Service Immersion Trips

From Washington DC to Appalachia, students practice leadership and stand in solidarity.



LIVING LAB AND THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: Unparalleled Facilities in an Urban Environment

Our pioneering education in ecology, environmental science, and environmental justice earned O’Dowd “The Green Achiever Award” from the California Department of Education. We equip our students to become the next generation of environmental and sustainability leaders.



2

State-of-the-Art Multidisciplinary Science Laboratories



4+ Acre Certified Wildlife Habitat

5

Outdoor Classrooms



Sustainable Garden

DISCOVER YOUR IMPACT

Music

Our students showcase their talents in a range of ensembles, from String Orchestra to Symphonic Band to Chorus.



Performing Arts

Our students perform classical and cutting-edge plays and musicals, and even direct and produce original work.

Our contemporary dance program gives students the opportunity for creative expression while learning dance technique and choreography.



Visual Arts

With ceramics, computer arts and animation, drawing and design, painting, photography, film and video, students develop the skills to express their voice as artists.

 **2** Professional Recording Studios

 **5+** Annual Student Performances

 **2** Modern Performance Theaters

 **3+** Student Publications

 **12** 3D Printers



**7 AP and Honors
Fine Arts Courses**

Including AP Studio Art, Honors Jazz Ensemble, and Honors Drama

Theater Tech

Behind the shining lights, our students learn the hybrid creative and hands-on skills to design and build sets, run lights and sound, and produce costumes and props — all while gaining experience in collaborative teamwork.

Student Voices

Our creative students produce O'Dowd's bi-weekly video announcements, our weekly online newspaper, our annual literary and art magazine, and our award-winning yearbook.

THE CUMMINS CENTER

DRIVING STUDENT EXCELLENCE TO NEW HEIGHTS
IN ATHLETICS AND PERFORMING ARTS



State-of-the-Art Music Studio

Our professionally designed rehearsal studios give students ensemble-size practice and recording spaces, along with new instrument lockers, a vast sheet music library and stellar acoustics.



Sophisticated Drama Facilities

Our new Black Box Theater is a versatile space for students to practice dance, hold ensemble rehearsals, and perform intimate immersive shows. Our James T. Bill '55 Theater seats an audience of 325 and is equipped with all the technical capabilities of a professional performance house.



NCAA Regulation-Size Court

With a seating capacity for over 2000 roaring Dragon fans, our gym has an advanced digital scoreboard and a controlled daylight system, making it a spectacular setting for competitive play.



Best-in-Class Athletic Performance Lab

We support our student-athletes at every stage of fitness, with weight training, flexibility, and agility training.

DISCOVER YOUR IMPACT

Athletics

Our championship athletic program gives students the opportunity to compete across 17 sports and 50 teams, rising to the challenge of leadership on and off the field.



Teams

Student-athletes from across the region choose O’Dowd for our robust team play. We offer baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, esports, football, flag football, golf, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, softball, and water polo.



High-Impact Coaching

Our coaches, many of whom are alumni, are above all educators. They bring their successes from college and professional play, alongside their experience building winning programs, to lead transformational education outside the classroom.



Strength & Conditioning

Our student-athletes participate in concentrated and individualized weight training, flexibility, and agility training to perform at their highest level — all while learning how to make lifelong healthy choices.



Support for Student-Athletes

We support our student-athletes to adhere to a demanding practice schedule while meeting the academic rigor of our college preparatory curriculum — with grade monitoring, home communication, and personal check-ins as needed.



17
Sports



50+
Teams



NCAA Regulation-Size Court,
Updated Athletic Fields



800+
Student Athletes



17+
State Championships



Best-in-Class Athletic
Performance Lab

DISCOVER YOUR IMPACT

Leadership

Our students create our culture. With 8 Advanced Leadership Teams, students help to make our campus, and world, more just, joyful, and sustainable.



Dragon Spirit

O'Dowd's deep commitment to community means that we intentionally build time into our school schedule for relationship building, creativity, and collaboration.

8

Student Leadership
Teams

1

Amazing Spirit Week

45+

Student-Led Clubs

15

Cultural Clubs

5

Family Days



Clubs

We celebrate the multiplicity of gifts, talents, passions and potential each student brings to our community. Through clubs, students nurture their interests and build lifelong friendships.

Family Days

Our student body represents a rich diversity of races, ethnicities, religions, socio-economic backgrounds, traditions, cultures, learning styles, family compositions, and geographies. We create celebratory spaces for students and families to build community.

ENRICH YOUR SPIRIT

Deeply grounded in the Catholic faith, our diverse student body is united in the values of love, justice, and peace.

Mass, Liturgies & Prayer

Every school morning begins with student-led prayer, a moment for our community to ground inward and seek the presence of God. In weekly Mass and monthly liturgies, we gather together to grow in our spirituality, pray as a collective, and practice gratitude.



Campus Ministry

We create meaningful ways for students to connect to their faith and spirituality through the lens of Catholicism. With a Confirmation Program for 10-12th graders, inclusive Family Masses, and senior leadership opportunities with the Campus Ministry Team, O’Dowd’s culturally relevant ministries prepare students to “go and set the world on fire.”



Retreats

Central to the O’Dowd experience, our retreats support students of all religious and cultural backgrounds to build a community culture grounded in meaning and purpose.

18

Annual Student
Retreats

14

Student-Led
Masses & Liturgies

13

Student Ministry
Opportunities



Multicultural Celebration

Our students and families come from many beautiful religious and cultural traditions. With an array of student-led clubs, including the BSU, Jewish Club, Latinos Unidos, Desi Club, AAPI Association, Native American/Indigenous Association, and a week-long Multicultural Celebration, we share the religious and cultural diversity of our community through dance, art, music, food, and educational events.

AFFORDING O'DOWD

Ensuring Access for All Students

The O'Dowd community is deeply committed to accessibility. Our tuition covers roughly 88 percent of our expenses, with the generous philanthropy of our current families, alumni, and friends of O'Dowd fulfilling the remaining operating budget. We do this because we are dedicated to ensuring that O'Dowd is affordable to as many families as possible. Paired with tuition assistance, which funds 30 percent of our students, we remain steadfast in making O'Dowd a place of belonging for every family.

Tuition Assistance

O'Dowd uses a company called FACTS to help assess need, collect income information, and upload tax documentation.

Our Financial Aid Application will be due in January. For more information, visit bishopodowd.org/tuition-and-financial-aid.



30%

of O'Dowd students receive
tuition assistance



15%

of O'Dowd's tuition is
covered by philanthropy

Parent Pledge

To bridge the gap between the actual cost of an O'Dowd education and tuition charged, we ask families to make an annual tax-deductible pledge of \$2,400 for each of their enrolled students. This Parent Pledge directly funds our talented teachers and our award-winning programs, including drama, debate, athletics, and our Living Lab.

For more information, visit bishopodowd.org/parent-pledge.

THE O'DOWD COMMUNITY

WELCOMES YOU

BE CHALLENGED
BE POWERFUL
BE NURTURED
BE SCHOLARLY
BE BOLD
BE FAITHFUL
BE CONNECTED
BE PASSIONATE
BE A CHANGEMAKER
BE JOYFUL

YOU BELONG HERE.



Come take a tour, meet our students, talk with teachers
and administrators, visit our website.
bishopodowd.org | Admissions@bishopodowd.org
510.553.8631



O'DOWD
STUDENTS



**Bishop O'Dowd
High School**

9500 Stearns Ave, Oakland, CA 94605
510.577.9100 | www.bishopodowd.org